

MODEL LODGING-HOUSE AT LEEDS.—

An interesting account of a lodging-house opened by Mr. W. Beckett Denison, at Wellington-yard, Kirkgate, Leeds, is given in the *Leeds Intelligencer*, which states that it is making successful progress, and thus describes it:—On the ground floor is a kitchen with tables, where the lodgers may sit and take their meals, and small closets, each under lock and key, for their especial use, the key of which may be retained at pleasure on a deposit of sixpence, as its price. On the same floor are also another kitchen with a large cooking apparatus always at work, and a large wash-house provided with several stone basins, pierced,—soap boxes, towels, and brushes, and a bath. On the first floor is the master's room and two day sitting-rooms, where is to be found a medley of serial papers, some local papers, two daily papers, and books. In the flats above we have suites of bed-rooms containing in all seventy-two beds, each separate, formed either of iron, or of wood tressels, with a head, and overlaid with strong linen cloth, on which is placed an excellent flock bed and pillows, and as good bedding as can be used, with every provision for decency and cleanliness—and all this accommodation for 3d. a night, with the Sunday night gratuitously added, if the lodging has been used for seven nights in succession. We believe also that Mr. Denison contemplates some further additions to the moral comforts of his establishment as soon as it has assumed a more permanent character. In the course of four weeks there were admitted nearly a hundred persons of all trades, many occupying the same beds for weeks together—several partially so. We strongly recommend all persons who feel an interest in this valuable experiment, continues the reporter, to pay a visit to the "Model Lodging House." They will be amply repaid in witnessing even the appearance of comfort which it presents; and they will feel, too, how much society owes to a young man like Mr. Denison, whose position might have given a different direction to the pursuits of his leisure, but who has thus devoted them and the means which Providence has given him, single-handed, to ameliorate the condition of his fellows.

GAS WORKS, STEPNEY.—The building of the large gas-holder tank and other works on the Commercial Gas Company's land, Ben Jonson's Fields, Stepney, are now rapidly approaching towards completion. The tank is of brick, 105 feet in diameter in the clear, and 32 feet deep, and entirely surrounded by made puddle 2 feet 6 inches in width: the walls are carried up chiefly in blue lias lime: there is also a small portion in Roman cement. There is a well for the inlet and outlet pipes, built in brick and blue lias lime mortar: it is 32 feet deep, and connected with the tank by a short tunnel. At a distance of 27 feet 6 inches apart, from centre to centre, in the tank wall, are 12 counterforts: on the top of each is bedded a Bramley Fall stone, which receives a cast-iron hollow column 52 feet high, secured by bolts through the stone, and penetrating 12 feet into the wall. Messrs. Knight and Son are the contractors for the tank, and J. and W. Houghton for the gas-holder. Engineer-in-chief, Mr. V. M. Christie; Mr. W. J. Caldwell the assistant engineer.

MR. BAILIE COCHRANE'S FARM-BUILDING BILL.—This Bill has passed through the committee, and has had three clauses added to it. The first provides, that where money is borrowed under letters of entail in Scotland, the heir of entail in possession shall not obtain decret of declaration or of payment against the heirs entitled to succeed in the lands, in respect of improvements effected by the application of the money so borrowed or advanced, or grant bond of annual rent, or bond in disposition and security, in respect of said money; nor shall the entail lands be otherwise affected thereby than is authorised by the Drainage of Lands Act, 1849, and this Act. The second provides that on a rent-charge over lands held under entail in Scotland, the heir of entail in possession shall not obtain decret of declaration or of payment against the heirs entitled to succeed, in respect of improvements effected

by the application of the money so borrowed or advanced, or grant bond of annual rent, or bond in disposition and security, in respect of said money, nor shall the entail lands be otherwise affected thereby than is authorised by the first recited Act and this Act. The third provides that the rent-charges for money to be borrowed in Scotland in virtue of this Act shall not be entitled to any priority. The remaining clauses provide that the advances are not to exceed eighteen months' value of the land for which they are required. The report made on application to the commissioners to authorise any loan is to contain all the particulars as regards the land and proposed improvements deemed requisite, to enable the commissioners to judge of the expediency of allowing the application, but need not include any estimate of annual value of the improvement to the land. All the buildings erected under the proposed Act are to be insured.—*N. B. Agriculturist.*

THE BIRKENHEAD DOCKS.—Mr. Abernethy, engineer, has issued a report to the trustees on the best mode of completing the deep-water entrances to the Great Float. The plan proposed by Mr. Rendel, in 1850, Mr. Abernethy characterizes as crude and undigested, even with the modifications and alterations which he suggested, and proposes that a dam should be constructed across the great basin from the angle of the Birkenhead fork to the north reserve, having in it a pair of gates, 95 feet in width; the sill to be laid at the depth of 15 feet below the Old Dock sill, which would give a depth of 20 feet at half-tide of mean neap tides; the basin being thus converted into a half-tide basin, in which coasters and steamers would be constantly kept afloat. The outer entrance or tidal basin to be kept clear by a range of sluices in the dam, furnished from the Great Float. In regard to the entrance to the Float, he proposes to substitute two locks, with reverse gates, in place of lock and tidal gates proposed by the present plan. The greater lock to be 350 feet in length and 90 feet in width; the smaller lock 200 feet in length, and 50 feet in width. The outer sills of these locks to be laid at the level of 13 feet, and the inner 8 feet, below the Old Dock sill. Thus there will be four entrances into the float. The probable cost of the works is estimated at 234,304l. Mr. Rennie, C.E., Capt. Maughan, of the London Docks, and Capt. Andrews, harbour-master at Lowestoft, have also presented reports in regard to the scheme of Mr. Abernethy. Capt. Maughan considers it a great improvement on all former plans, but entertains serious doubts of the propriety of constructing so large a basin with a single pair of lock gates. It is understood that the trustees and the Dock Company have agreed to unite in carrying out the works proposed by Mr. Abernethy, and that a Bill is now before Parliament to effect this object.

NOVEL PROJECT.—The *Lafontaine Courier* has it, on indisputable authority, that there is a project to extinguish the fires of Vesuvius! "It is understood that the bottom of the main or grand crater is several thousand feet below the level of the sea. The plan, therefore, is to dig a large trench or canal from the sea to the crater, the expense of which will not exceed two millions of dollars, and thus extinguish the fires that have been burning for thousands of years. It is said that the fine lands thus to be reclaimed will more than ten times pay the expense of executing the grand design." Why should not Mr. Goldworthy Gurney make the attempt with his steam-jet and choke-damp?

THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH.—A company is now formed with an influential directorate (among them are two directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company), and Mr. W. Cubitt, president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, as consulting engineer, to carry out the concession granted to Mr. Jacob Brett by the French Government, with sole authority for ten years to construct electric telegraphs between the two countries. By a single wire the news by the Indian Mail, on its arrival at Trieste or Marseilles, may be delivered, printed in Roman type, simultaneously at Paris, London, and

Liverpool, at which last place it will be in readiness for the departure of the American mail; while other single wires will, at the same instant, convey intelligence between Great Britain and Belgium, Prussia, Austria, and Russia, and other continental states. The company, for which a Royal Charter of Incorporation has been obtained, will divide 100,000 shares of 1l. each,—one quarter amongst the concessionaries and patentees, in consideration of the privileges granted, and 50,000 only of the remainder, in the first instance, among the shareholders. The charter gives power to raise a further sum, making the total 200,000l.

STEAM DRILL FOR DRIFT WORK.—Mr. Henry Goulding, a mechanic of New York, has recently invented a machine for doing the drift work in drilling rock, which evinces ingenuity and skill, and seems calculated to achieve results, in the particular species of work it is intended to perform, which it has hitherto been supposed impracticable to attain. It can be worked at any distance from the steam engine, by means of belts. It will work in any direction that may be desired, and this it is that renders it peculiarly adapted to drift work. Another advantage is, that it is self-feeding. When it meets an obstacle too hard to be affected, it ceases to drill, and is therefore not liable to be broken and occasion the delays which result from such an accident. The machine is also quite compact, occupying a space not more than 3 feet wide by 8 or nine long. It can be worked by two men, and is extremely simple in its operation.

THE STAIRCASE OF NORTHUMBERLAND HOUSE.—Our notice of this building has led to some inquiries, in reply to which we are enabled to state that the architect by whom the present marble staircase there was designed was the late Mr. Thomas Cundy, of Pimlico. The late Mr. Thomas Grundy, of Westminster, was the mason.

THE GREAT COW-HOUSE OF GAINAGO.—There are 150 stalls in the great cow-house at Gainago, and not one is untenanted. Stable-boys, milk-maids, and dairy-men are in constant attendance; men and beasts equally engaged in the manufacture of Parmesan cheese. The stable itself is a masterpiece of architecture. It has a central nave and two aisles, like any Gothic minster. Its lofty roof rests on five-and-seventy massive pillars on either side. Between every two pillars one cow has her home. All along the stalls from behind there are minor alleys for the passage of the cattle. The middle avenue, never trodden by quadrupeds, is paved with bricks, and so carefully swept, that the Lombard boor declares himself ready, at any time, to eat his Indian porridge off the floor. During the winter months that central nave, or by whatever name the main walk may be designated, is converted into a magnificent saloon, and answers the manifold purposes of a common workshop, a lounge, and assembly-room for the villagers.—*Mariotti's Italian Life.*

STATISTICS OF CALIFORNIAN GOLD.—The statistics of the products of Californian gold are curious and valuable. From the latest published returns that have been received, and which we may rely upon as approximating to the truth, we find that the yield for the first three months of 1851, was as follows:—

	Dollars.
Gold Dust	10,689,000
Coined or Stamped	1,517,000
Gold Dust carried inland by miners from Mexico, Chili, Oregon, &c.	1,000,000
Shipped by merchants not on manifests	450,000
In the possession of miners and merchants on 31st March	1,000,000
	14,656,000
The above computations are at 16 dollars per oz.	
Add 1 dollar 60 cents. for mint value above market value	1,374,000
Total yield for three months, 1851	16,030,000
The yield for April will probably exceed the average of the prior months; but assuming it at the same, it will be	
For four months	5,343,000
	21,373,000